

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4622

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5251

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: US-GON CIVAIR TALKS--PRESS COMMENTARY

REF: HAGUE 5182

1. AFTER INITIAL SPATE OF ALARMING PRESS ARTICLES FOLLOWING OPENING OF CIVAIR TALKS LAST WEEK, DUTCH NEWSPAPERS IN MID-WEEK BEGAN TO EXHIBIT BETTER BALANCE THANKS IN PART TO EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW USDEL CHAIRMAN GAVE TO COUNTRY'S LARGEST DAILY DE TELEGRAAF. AFTER JOINT COMMUNIQUE APPEARED AT END OF NEGOTIATIONS, PAPERS INDICATED SOME RELIEF THAT TALKS WERE TO CONTINUE IN WASHINGTON AND SATISFACTION THAT KLM HAD NOT BEEN FORCED TO DO MORE THAN REDUCE ITS WINTER SEATING CAPACITY.

2. DURING AN INTERVIEW OCT 23, WALDMANN STERNLY LECTURED DE TELEGRAAF'S AVIATION EDITOR ABOUT QUOTATION ATTRIBUTED TO WALDMANN IN PREVIOUS DAY'S PAPER WHICH WAS MADE UP FROM WHOLE CLOTH. WHILE SAYING THAT HE DID NOT DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS, WALDMANN PROVIDED THOROUGH BACKGROUND ON REASONS US REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS WITH DUTCH. RESULT WAS LENGTHY ARTICLE IN FOLLOWING DAY'S PAPER. PROVIDING FIRST SIGNIFICANT COVERAGE IN DUTCH PRESS OF US POSITION DE TELGRAAF REPORTED THAT USG HAD BEEN FORCED TO TAKE TOUGH STAND IN KEEPING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT BECAUSE KLM IN COMPETITIVE WAY WAS LURING PASSENGERS

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FROM PAN AM RATHER THAN LIMITING ITS OWN SERVICE.

3. FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF TALKS PAPERS GREETED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH SOME RELIEF. LEFTIST-ORIENTED CATHOLIC LABOR DE VOLKSKRANT SAID THAT "IT SEEMS THAT WHAT WAS MOST FEARED IN THE HAGUE WAS THAT IF THE TALKS HAD BEEN BROKEN OFF LAST WEEK THIS WOULD HAVE ENCOURAGED THE AMERICANS" TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION AGAINST KLM. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL HAAGSCHE COURANT QUOTED DUTCH DEL CHAIRMAN ZWANENBURG AS SAYING IT WAS FAVORABLE TO DUTCH SIDE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE.

4. ALL NEWSPAPERS RECOGNIZED THAT FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND GON POSITIONS REMAIN AND THAT TALKS IN WASHINGTON WILL BE AS DIFFICULT AS THOSE THAT TOOK PLACE HERE. DE TELEGRAAF COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH USDEL DID NOT LEAVE WITH COMPLETELY EMPTY HANDS, TEMPORARY AGREEMENT REACHED MEANS THAT WASHINGTON "HASN'T GOT ITS OWN WAY".

5. CALVINIST DAILY TROUW REPORTED DESCRIPTION BY ZWANENBURG OF "PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT" AS "AN ACCEPTABLE MEASURE WHICH PROVIDES A REASONABLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF THE MARKET SITUATION ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTES". TROUW ALSO SAYS THAT ZWANENBURG CONSIDERS IT POSSIBLE THAT POLITICAL ARGUMENTS WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD DURING NEXT ROUND OF TALKS. ALSO ZWANENBURG "DOES NOT WANT IN THIS CONNECTION TO REFER SPECIFICALLY TO THE STAR FIGHTER REPLACEMENT". ACCORDING TO TROUW, ZWANENBURG SAID THAT DUTCH WOULD TRY TO CONVINCE US OF IMPORTANCE OF KLM TO DUTCH ECONOMY AND THAT THIS FAR OUTWEIGHED POLITICAL SIDE OF AVIATION CONFLICT. GOULD

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